

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHKELLY:LM

APPROVED BY EA/K:DLRANARD

NSC: MESSERS. SMYSER AND SOLOMAN

S/S: MR. LUERS

AF/: JWVINCENT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T STATE 138774

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, KN, KS, SG

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN BID TO NEGOTIATE

REF: DAKAR 3038

1. YOU MAY EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT SENGHOR FOR HIS OFFER TO PLAY ROLE IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. AT SAME TIME YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS AFFECTING FUTURE OF KOREA PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY IN ABSENCE OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

2. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND MAY BE USEFUL TO YOUR DISCUSSION. NORTH KOREAN SUPREME PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 25 APPROVED LETTER TO BE SENT TO U.S. CONGRESS. LETTER WAS WIDELY PUBLICIZED AND ORIGINAL WAS DELIVERED THROUGH THIRD COUNTRY. GIST OF LETTER IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS IN NORTH/SOUTH TALKS AND THAT REUNIFICATION IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL U.S. PRESENCE REMOVED. SINCE CHINESE PEOPLES VOLUNTEERS WITHDRAWN, NORTH KOREAN AND USG (SIC) ARE ONLY
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TWO SIGNATORIES OF 1953 ARMISTICE AGREEMENT REMAINING IN

KOREA. THEREFORE NORTH KOREA PROPOSES BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON "PEACE AGREEMENT" WHICH WOULD REPLACE ARMISTICE. PROPOSED AGREEMENT WOULD INCLUDE FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) NONAGGRESSION/INTERVENTION (2) END TO MILITARY REINFORCEMENT (3) TERMINATION OF UNITED NATIONS COMMAND (4) GUARANTEE THAT KOREA WILL NOT BE FOREIGN MILITARY BASE. AT TIME LETTER WAS BROADCAST DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT IT APPEARED TO BE EFFORT TO GO OVER HEAD OF ROKG AND THAT WE BELIEVE KOREAN ISSUES MUST BE RESOLVED BY KOREAN PARTIES THEMSELVES. SINCE LETTER APPEARED NORTH KOREAN DELEGATIONS HAVE CONDUCTED ACTIVE CAMPAIGN TO SECURE USG RESPONSE, INCLUDING URGING THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS TO BRING PRESSURE ON USG.

3. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM SENGHOR THAT USG POSITION REMAINS THAT BASIC KOREAN ISSUES MUST BE SOLVED BY TWO KOREAN PARTIES THEMSELVES. ATTEMPTS TO BYPASS ONE WILL ONLY IMPEDE THIS PROCESS. LAST JULY PRESIDENT PARK TOOK DRAMATIC STEP OF DROPPING LONG-STANDING COMPETITION FOR RECOGNITION OF SOLE LEGITIMACY WHICH HAD PRECLUDED RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY WITH RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. HE ANNOUNCED READINESS TO TREAT WITH ALL COUNTRIES ON BASIS OF EQUALITY AND RECIPROCITY AND TO ACCEPT ADMISSION OF NORTH KOREA IN UN. IN JANUARY HE PROPOSED NONAGGRESSION AGREEMENT WITH NORTH. WE BELIEVE STEPS SUCH AS THESE REPRESENT CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH WHICH COULD LEAD TO STABILITY AND DIALOGUE. HOWEVER, THIS POSSIBLE ONLY IF MATCHED BY SIMILAR NORTH KOREAN ATTITUDE RECOGNIZING PRESENT REALITIES AND COOPERATING WITH ROK IN EFFORTS TO STABILIZE THE PENINSULA. SISCO

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